



## University of Baltimore Law Forum

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# University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 22 Number 1 (Summer 1991) Front Matter

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From Associate Dean Michele Gilligan:

This letter marks the beginning of my third year as associate dean. Much has happened since I first started. Change is everywhere. There is a building feeling of excitement around the school, and perhaps a little anxiety.

We are engaged in a search for a new dean. The search forces the faculty, administration, staff and students to explore who we are as an institution and what we want to be. We have had several meetings discussing what we would like in a new dean which helps us to define our shared vision of the law school. The process is very invigorating, but tinged with sadness because of Dean Laurence Katz's resignation.

We have been very pleased with the large number and high quality of the applicants for the position of dean. The members of the Dean Search Committee meet three times a week under the direction of the chair, Professor Walter Schwidetzky. The Committee hopes to complete its work by the end of the Spring 1993 semester.

Another reason for the feeling of optimism around the school is the incredible school spirit of the Student Bar Association (SBA). The SBA has taken off with new enthusiasm and vigor this fall under the able leadership of Mr. Andy Alperstein. The volleyball tournament organized for the homeless was outstanding - people had a wonderful time while performing a tremendous public service. (The Plaza became a beach for several days with two tons of sand spread out over the brick!)

The new Provost, Dr. Legon, who comes from a similar school in the Midwest, does his part to enhance an upbeat atmosphere. We lawyers like order and process and Dr. Legon is working on raising our comfort level. Although he comes from a university which did not have a law school, he has a healthy respect for the law school. We are finding change a positive experience with the new Provost, which makes us more optimistic about the impact of a new dean.

Some aspects of the school remain the same. The educational program we offer the students continues to offer a rich variety of courses and experiences. I am particularly pleased with the academic support program we offer first year students who wish to enhance their performance.

The academic support program starts with the Summer Institute, designed for students who do not have the traditional indicators to be admitted to law school. In that program we teach skills which will allow students to succeed in law school and, if they are successful, they are admitted to law school.

All entering students then participate in a week long Orientation which introduces them to law school and its stresses, but also teaches them the skills they need for the first week of classes like briefing a case. During the first week of classes, Professor Richard Bourne and Mr. Anton Mack organize the Study Group Project, giving all students the opportunity to participate in randomly created study groups with upper class leaders. All students participate in LARW and Moot Court, one of the best and most intense writing programs in the country, directed by Professor Elizabeth Samuels and administered by Ms. Leslie Metzger.

Mr. Mack also organizes the Law Achievement Workshops. There upper class students, who have done well in first year courses, lead review sessions for students who wish to attend. The academic support program then is completed with a series of Transition Programs for first year students that deal with adjustment issues like examination techniques. This entire program would not be possible without the dedication of the volunteer faculty and students, but also Dean Katz's support.

A cocktail party honoring Dean Katz will be held on April 1. Details will be sent to everyone. I hope to see you there. Please take the opportunity to come and thank Larry for all that he has done for us in his years as Dean.